

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior Listings and versions of claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims

1-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A cysteine variant of granulocyte colony-stimulating factor of SEQ ID NO:[]6, wherein a cysteine residue is inserted preceding the first amino acid of granulocyte colony-stimulating factor; wherein the variant has biological activity *in vitro* as measured by proliferation of a cell line that proliferates in response to granulocyte colony-stimulating factor.

25. (Currently Amended) A cysteine variant of granulocyte colony-stimulating factor of SEQ ID NO:[]6, wherein a cysteine residue is inserted following the last amino acid of granulocyte colony-stimulating factor; wherein the variant has biological activity *in vitro* as measured by proliferation of a cell line that proliferates in response to granulocyte colony-stimulating factor.

26-45. (Cancelled)

46. (Currently Amended) The cysteine variant according to any one of claims 24, ~~to 26~~ 25, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57 or 58, wherein the inserted cysteine residue is modified with a cysteine-reactive moiety.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) The cysteine variant according to any one of claims 24 ~~to 26~~ 25, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57 or 58, wherein the inserted cysteine residue is modified with polyethylene glycol.

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Currently Amended) The cysteine variant according to any one of claims 24 ~~to 26~~ 25, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57 or 58, wherein the cysteine variant is modified with at least one polyethylene glycol.

53. (New) A cysteine variant of granulocyte colony-stimulating factor of SEQ ID NO:6, wherein a cysteine residue is inserted preceding the first amino acid of granulocyte colony-stimulating factor; wherein a non-cysteine amino acid is substituted for C17; and wherein the variant has biological activity *in vitro* as measured by proliferation of a cell line that proliferates in response to granulocyte colony-stimulating factor.

54. (New) The cysteine variant according to claim 53, wherein the non-cysteine amino acid substituted for C17 is serine.

55. (New) The cysteine variant according to claim 53, wherein the non-cysteine amino acid substituted for C17 is alanine.

56. (New) A cysteine variant of granulocyte colony-stimulating factor of SEQ ID NO:6, wherein a cysteine residue is inserted following the last amino acid of granulocyte colony-stimulating factor; wherein a non-cysteine residue is substituted for C17; and wherein the variant has biological activity *in vitro* as measured by proliferation of a cell line that proliferates in response to granulocyte colony-stimulating factor.

57. (New) The cysteine variant according to claim 56, wherein the non-cysteine amino acid substituted for C17 is serine.

58. (New) The cysteine variant according to claim 56, wherein the non-cysteine amino acid substituted for C17 is alanine.